**Thematic Unit I Outline: Democracy & Authority**

**Unit Abstract:**

This unit examines the tension between the increasing power of the federal government and the rights of the people in the United States. The power of the federal government fluctuates at various times depending on circumstances, including the cultural and political climate. The growth of the federal government and the ability of the people to retain rights will be taught through the three threads relating a type of right or particular circumstance. Civil liberties, violations of the Bill of Rights and restrictions on civil liberties during wartime are the areas of conflict that we will focus on.

**Thematic Unit II Outline: Equality & Hierarchy**

**Unit Abstract:**

This unit examines the mechanisms through which marginalized groups sought to gain greater equality in terms of legal rights and in their daily lives. There are three threads through which to examine this unit. The first thread is legal/political mechanisms included constitutional amendments, legislation, voting rights and court cases. The second and third threads are the social and economic mechanisms included using public activism, including demonstrations and boycotts, to secure greater equality in their day-to-day lives. The degree of success for various groups depends on historical context, ability to ally across racial, ethnic, religious lines, and national government intervention. This unit also examines privilege of the dominant groups and how they attempt to maintain power over marginalized groups.

**Thematic Unit III Outline: Individualism and Collectivism**

**Unit Abstract:**

This unit examines the shift in the U.S. from a structure of loosely connected individuals to a society with greater interdependence. These connections provided mutual benefits to individuals, groups or the nation but at the expense of rights and power. This shift stemmed in large part from the growth of a laissez faire government to a government that created a highly interconnected economic system by establishing involuntary relationships between government, business, labor and people, thus giving this unit an economic focus. Oftentimes, these changes resulted from crises in the nation and permanently centralized the role of the government in people’s lives.

**Thematic Unit IV Outline: Juggling Act: Foreign Policy**

**Unit Abstract**

This unit examines the motives and methods of United States involvement in foreign affairs. The three threads of U.S. involvement are unilateralism (lone wolf), ideological expansionism and practical interests. At times, the U.S. determines its foreign policy by refraining from involvement in foreign affairs or choosing to involve itself without alliances and focusing only on its own agenda. The government must also consider practical benefits that the United States could obtain from its involvement. Both of these motives are guided by dominant American ideologies like liberty, freedom and democracy and the desire to spread such ideals to people outside the United States which was expressed in the 20th century as Manifest Destiny. These decisions have resulted in the United States becoming a superpower while expanding its own borders and imperializing others.

Name:   
Date:

Read through your assigned thematic unit’s abstract. Use the abstract to generate specific people, events and ideas that you believe falls into that theme. After your initial brainstorm of ideas, use the textbook to help add to your list. In total, you should have a list of about 20-25 events/people. Be prepared to share your ideas about what the unit is about and what you may be studying with your peers.

Assigned Unit: ­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Take Notes Here on key

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Ticket to Leave: Put this response on a SPOP

Write one takeaway from today’s lesson on this page